

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2923

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FOR ARA/MGT M/MO AND A/FBO

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: AMGT, VE OGEN

SUBJ: OPERATION CLEAN SLATE

REF: CARACAS 6880, 1277

1. IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO RESTRUCTURE THE PRESENT SUBSTANTIVE SECTIONS FROM THE TWO BASIC SECTIONS, ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL, INTO FOUR SEPARATE UNITS: NEGOTIATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS, ANALYSIS, BILATERAL, AND COMMERCIAL. IN ORDER TO HAVE THESE FOUR UNITS IN THE CHANCERY BUILDING, OFFICERS AND STAFF MUST BE MOVED TO DIFFERENT AREAS, AND MANY OFFICES HAVE TO BE RENOVATED. THE RENOVATIONS FOR RESTRUCTURING THE CHANCERY TO HOUSE ITS NEW ORGANIZATION ARE GIVEN BELOW.

2. THE NEGOTIATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS UNIT WILL BE HOUSED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE SEVENTH FLOOR (WHERE THE POLITICAL SECTION IS PRESENTLY LOCATED). THIS UNIT CONSISTS OF THREE OFFICERS AND TWO STAFF MEMBERS AND IS THE SMALLEST OF THE FOUR NEW UNITS. BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THE OTHER THREE UNITS AND THE NEED FOR THEM NOT TO BE SPLIT UP, NONE OF THE OTHER NEW UNITS WILL BE PLACED ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR. THE REMAINING OFFICE SPACE IN THIS AREA, WHICH IS MORE THAN REQUIRED BY THE N&C UNIT, WILL BE OCCUPIED BY THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE CONSISTING OF TWO OFFICERS AND TWO SUPPORT STAFF. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MOVE IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ATTEND TO THE DEMOLITION OF NINE CEMENT WALLS, INSTALLING 13 NEW REMOVABLE PARTITIONS,

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AND THE MISCELLANEOUS WORK OF PAINTING WALLS AND LAYING OF

CARPETS AND DRAPES.

3. PART OF THE PROPOSED REMODELING OF THE SEVENTH FLOOR WILL INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADEQUATE AND SECURE CONFERENCE ROOM FOR COUNTRY TEAM MEETINGS. IT IS INTENDED TO RESTRUCTURE THE PRESENT ACOUSTICAL CONFERENCE ROOM WHICH IS TOO SMALL, AWKWARD TO USE AND AS A CONSEQUENCE HARDLY EVER IS -- A TOTAL WASTE OF SPACE. MOVING THE ACOUSTICLA ENCLOSURE IS NOW OUT OF THE QUESTION BECAUSE OF THE SPACE DEMANDS ARISING OUT OF THE REORGANIZATION. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE ACOUSTICAL ENCLOSURE BE DISMANTLED AND THE AREA BE SHIELDED WITH A "CHASTITY BELT."

4. FOR THE ANALYSIS UNIT, SEE SEPTTEL.

5. THE NEW BILATERAL UNIT WILL BE HOUSED ON THE SOUTH WING OF THE FOURTH FLOOR (WHERE THE ECONOMIC SECTION IS PRESENTLY LOCATED). THIS UNIT, CONSISTING OF EIGHT OFFICERS AND FIVE STAFF MEMBERS, IS THE LARGEST OF ALL THE PROPOSED UNITS. THE ENTIRE UNIT CAN BE HOUSED IN THE AREA PROPOSED, BUT DEMOLITION OF 14 CEMENT WALLS AND INSTALLATION OF 17 REMOVABLE PARTITIONS PLUS PAINTING OF WALLS AND LAYING OF CARPETS AND CURTAINS WILL BE REQUIRED.

6. THE COMMERCIAL UNIT, COMPOSED OF FIVE OFFICERS AND TWO SUPPORT STAFF, WILL BE HOUSED IN THE NORTH WING OF THE FOURTH FLOOR (WHERE THE DEA DISTRICT OFFICE IS NOW LOCATED). ALSO, THIS AREA WILL HOUSE THE COMMERCIAL TASK FORCE, COMPOSED OF THREE OFFICERS AND TWO SUPPORT STAFF. AS THIS ENTIRE AREA IS ALREADY CARPETED AND PRINCIPALLY HAS REMOVABLE PARTITIONS, THE COST OF RESTRUCTURING IT WILL BE MINIMAL WHEN COMPARED TO THE COST REQUIRED FOR THE OTHER UNITS. DEMOLITION OF TWO CEMENT WALLS AND INSTALLATION OF FOUR REMOVABLE PARTITIONS WILL BE REQUIRED. THE DEA DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE RELOCATED ON THE SAME FLOOR WHERE THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE IS NOW LOCATED.

7. AS CAN BE SEEN CONSIDERABLE RENOVATING WORK INCLUDING DEMOLITION OF 40 CEMENT WALLS, PUTTING UP 52 REMOVABLE PARTITIONS AND DOORS, REMODELING OF THE ACOUSTICAL CONFERENCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROOM AND PAINTING MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED. THIS COST HAS BEEN CALCULATED TO BE \$29,000. THE REDECORATING WORK FOR CARPETS, DRAPES, AND FURNITURE HAS BEEN ESTIMATED AT \$58,000. COST OF THE "CHASTITY BELT" IS ESTIMATED AT \$3,500. THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT IS \$90,500. DRAWINGS OF NEW OFFICE PLANS SHOWING ALL STRUCTURAL CHANGES AND LOCATIONS OF NEW PARTITIONS TO HOUSE THE NEW FOUR UNITS WILL BE SUBMITTED SHORTLY. A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF THE LABOR IN CONNECTIONS WITH

THE REMODELING OF THE ACOUSTICAL CONFERENCE ROOM WILL BE
DONE BY SEABEES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SY.

8. OUR TARGET DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING "CLEAN SLATE" IS JULY 1.
WE RECOGNIZE THAT EVEN UNDER OPTIMUM CONDITIONS SOME OF THE
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF COURSE WILL BE COMPLETED AFTER THAT
DATE. URGENT CONSIDERATION, HOWEVER, IS REQUESTED FOR
AUTHORITY TO PROCEED IN ORDER TO COMPLETE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
OF THE REMODELING BY JULY 1.
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